Conference of Bar Leaders enters fourth decade of service

By Mark Wilson

The New York State Conference of Bar Leaders (NYSCBL) celebrated 31 years of service to local and specialty bar associations statewide on July 1, marking the event with a change of leadership within the conference's Executive Council.

Earamichia Nake Brown of New York (Metropolitan Transportation Authority Office of the Inspector General) became chair of the council. She succeeds Linda J. Clark of Albany (Hiscock & Barclay LLP), who held the post since 2008. Brown was vice-chair during Clark's two-year tenure as chair.

Brown has been involved with the NYSCBL since 2003 and is the council's longest-participating member.

"It's been great to see how the conference has evolved over the years to meet the needs of bar associations," she said. "My goal for the next two years is to increase everyone's awareness of the conference and to improve communications between ourselves and bars statewide, to foster a greater sharing of information and ideas."

One way that Brown plans to improve communications is by providing information about the conference to every incoming bar association president.

"I am preparing an 'e-packet' that will have information about the conference and the State Bar's Office of Bar Services, and contain a pdf of our Directory of Bar Associations in New York State," Brown said.

Membership pipeline—Earamichia Nake Brown, chair of the New York State Conference of Bar Leaders (NYSCBL), left, and President-elect Vincent E. Doyle III present a session on "Priming the Pump: Enhancing the Membership Pipeline from Law School to Bar Association" at the NYSCBL Spring Workshop on April 23 at the New York City Bar headquarters. *[Photo by Mark Wilson]*

Other council changes

The State Bar's Department of Bar Services provides staffing and budget support for the conference, and publishes the directory semi-annually.

Further changes to the council will include the addition of State Bar President-elect Vincent E. Doyle III, who will serve through May 31, 2011.

"It is important to recognize the role local, minority, women and specialty bar associations play in connecting attorneys within their own geographic and specialty areas and the work bars do to develop initiatives that promote the profession," Doyle said. "The conference is well placed to assist the bars with their efforts. I look forward to working with the council in the coming year."

Karla Wilsey of Rochester (Boylan Brown) succeeds Brown as vice-chair for 2010 – 2011. Wilsey has served on the council since 2006. She also is treasurer of the Monroe County Bar Association.

The council's remaining 13 members are affiliated with the state's four judicial departments, The Network of Bar Leaders in New York, or are executive directors of all bar associations that have a director.

Serving bars statewide

"We want to bring bar leaders and directors together in informational and network-type settings," Brown said. "Any time leaders can discuss issues with their counterparts, it's a productive session."

The NYSCBL sponsors two workshops annually, presenting topics in bar association management, program ideas, and current legal trends that can impact associations and their membership. The fall program is scheduled for October 14 and 15 at the State Bar Center in Albany.

Additional information is available on the conference's website, www.nyscbl.org, under "Upcoming Events." ◆

Wilson is NYSBA's Director of Bar Services.